



An Open Letter to the People of Oelwein

Since 1982, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare has been committed to living out our Mission of providing exceptional and compassionate health care services to this community. Through a committed group of associates and health care providers, we believe we have done that and we thank you for the trust you have put in us.

In recent years, loud voices have questioned our commitment, worked publicly and subversively to undermine the future of the hospital and made what should be a point of pride and community unity a point of contention and division. While we do not believe they represent the majority of opinion, what they are doing is destroying their local hospital and we believe it must end.

To that end, with the support of the Board of Directors of Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare–Iowa, we make the following offer. If it is truly the desire of the Oelwein Community, as expressed through the City Council, to operate Mercy Hospital, we will sell the hospital for the price of Eight Million dollars.

If the hospital is not purchased, then we ask for cooperation and community support in our efforts to operate Mercy Hospital while serving the greater community.

As a community we ask that you come together and choose a direction for the future of health care in this area. Our associates, the residents and patients of this community deserve better than the current environment. It is our sincere hope that this offer, and the community deliberation that will follow, bring this chapter to an end so together we can build a healthy future.

This is a one-time proposal, we will hold open for ninety days, contingent upon a qualified purchase offer.

Respectfully,

Jack Dusenbery, President/CEO
Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare–Iowa